



# October 2023 Newsletter

## President's Message

Wow! What a month! New classes, new square and round dance students, a big dance every weekend, our second quarter delegate meeting and the Teen Scholarship Dance. Whew! No wonder the time flew by.

October looks like it will be just as busy. Hermann Son's is having its annual Sausage Dinner and dance in San Antonio on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>; Tony and Martha Burghart are hosting their "Relocation Dance" in Taylor on October 7<sup>th</sup>, Alamo Area is hosting the Presidents' Meeting and Dance the weekend of October 13 & 14 in San Antonio, and there are multiple Halloween dances from October 26<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>. Check out the "Events" section of the website for more information at [www.asrda.org/events](http://www.asrda.org/events).

I am so proud of all the clubs' promotional activities that brought new dancers into classes. I don't have all the new student numbers at the writing of this message, but several clubs brought in more dancers than they have in five years. And the average age of the new dancer is younger than it has been in the past. We even have some more kids taking lessons. Continue to be as welcoming to these new folks as you were at your Open Houses and really make them feel part of your club.

Speaking of new dancers, let them know about our monthly Round the Capitol Square (RCS) newsletter. They can get information from our website [asrda.org/new-dancer-info](http://asrda.org/new-dancer-info) and [asrda.org/resources](http://asrda.org/resources). Encourage them to sign up for Mike Goggin's weekly announcements which include a link to the newsletter at the end of every month. Vickie Merchant and I, as well as other contributors, are trying hard to make the newsletter interesting and fun, while keeping you up-to-date with what is happening in ASRDA and square and round dancing.

On the more serious side, COVID is once again on the rise. We know a lot more about it than we did two or three years ago, but it is still dangerous for high-risk people. Even if you have been vaccinated and/or do not have any symptoms or a fever, you can still pass the virus to someone else. That is the reason the home COVID test is so important.



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## President's Message Continued

If you have been to a dance or gathering and you are notified that someone at the dance now has COVID or tested positive within five to ten days of the dance, it would be a good idea to test yourself five days after that dance. People are contagious two days before showing symptoms.

If you test positive, you should not attend another dance for another five days. At day ten after your initial exposure, you are most likely not infectious unless you still have a fever. For complete CDC guidelines on exposure go to:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html>

ASRDA now has guidelines for a dancers and dance leaders to follow regarding notification of dancers. If someone comes down with COVID or tests positive for COVID, the infected dancer should notify the club president or dance leader and the club/dance leader will notify all dancers who attended the dance the same evening as the infected individual. The name of the infected individual will not be given out unless that person gives their permission.

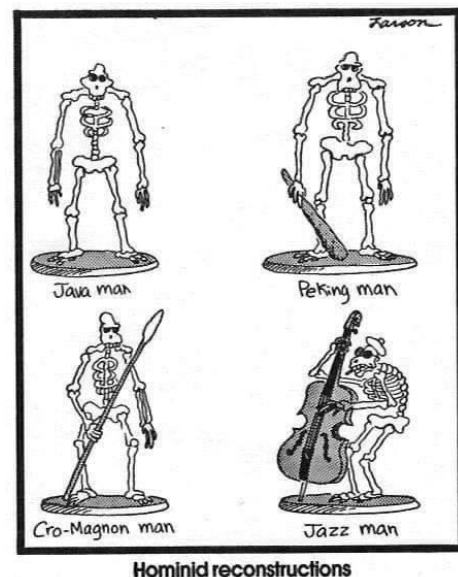
COVID almost killed square dancing two years ago. We've worked very hard over the past two years to increase our numbers. Let's work together to keep square dancing alive and well this time around.

We have a wonderful square dance community, and it is growing all the time. Don't forget to share with your students that they can get information from our website [asrda.org/new-dancer-info](http://asrda.org/new-dancer-info) and [asrda.org/resources](http://asrda.org/resources). These may help them get more information about square dancing. Let's get our new dancers graduated so they can share this wonderful past time.

See you on the dance floor!

Brooke Peters,

President, ASRDA





## Chaplain's Message

### IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN, CHARLIE BROWN!

What fruit inspires names like Baby Boo and Warty Goblin, makes a great tasting beer, and was an everyday dinosaur snack thousands of years ago? (If your guess was the pumpkin, you've probably read the title of this article.)

The pumpkin was domesticated over 10,000 years ago and made a journey across the Atlantic in 1492 with Columbus! Pumpkins are related to summer and winter squashes. Gourds, spaghetti marrow, zucchini, cocozelle, squash and Ozark melons are all just variations in this group. Pumpkins—no matter in which species—are extremely diverse, and come in captivating colors, sizes, and shapes. Some are pale and white. Others are large and showy with green and orange splashes. There are even pink and red pumpkins!

The main reason we still have pumpkins today is due to Native American farmers. The farmers fed pumpkins to their livestock, used them as tools, or incorporated them into their diet. About 10,000 years ago, wild pumpkins and squash went extinct, and the pumpkin varieties that we have today are the direct result of their domestication and presentation by the natives.

Pumpkins made their debut in Europe in 1492. Christopher Columbus was the first European to bring pumpkin seeds from the heart of the Americas to Europe. He was also part of the first European group to set their eyes on a pumpkin patch, an event in Cuba on December 3, 1492. And yes, there was a pumpkin dish at the first Thanksgiving: they hollowed a pumpkin and filled it with milk, honey, and spices to make a custard while roasting the whole package over hot ashes. Today, pumpkin flavors abound in American products and have migrated to all sorts of goods: everything from candles to—yes! —pumpkin spice lattes. Pumpkin and pumpkin spice have grown to symbolize the fall season. Anyone for pumpkin flavored Oreos, tortilla chips, or cold brew coffee?

Why bring up pumpkins? Of course, October brings us Halloween, with its Jack-O'-Lanterns and pumpkin patches. We've all watched Linus waiting for the "Great Pumpkin" in the *Peanuts* series. But more importantly, pumpkins can be a symbol of our favorite hobby, square and round dancing. Pumpkins had to be developed from the wild varieties, carefully cultivated, and nurtured to be enjoyed today.

Square and round dancing has received the same loving care.



Each time we start a tip or a round dance, we are the beneficiaries of callers and cuers who have devoted their lives to nurturing this art form. New dances are developed. Older ones are recalled. (It was so wonderful to be taught “reverse and mixed Do-Si-Do,” “Slip, Slide and Slither,” “Grand Parade,” “Grand Bow,” and “Upside Down” at last month’s Fun-Sti-Toot.)

And just like today’s pumpkins, we are “an extremely diverse group and come in captivating colors.” Is there anything more beautiful than a hall full of dancers, all decked out in square-dance attire? What a gift we have received! To participate in this wholesome and healthy activity is truly a blessing from the Lord. The next time you drive by a pumpkin patch, remember...that’s a picture of us: unity and diversity producing beauty and companionship and joy.



### **Bon Voyage to the Clairmonts**

ASRDA is saying “Bon Voyage” to Dan and Gail Clairmont on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Their new life will start with a nine month around the world cruise. When they return, they will buy an RV and seeing the U.S. for an undetermined amount of time, eventually landing in North Carolina to be near kids and grandkids.

The Clairmont’s party will be at Hyde Park Christian Church in Austin from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Dancers can “Dress Like a Tourist” or wear “Hawaiian attire” to this fun-filled evening. It will begin with a potluck dinner. Towards the end of the dinner, we encourage people to share anecdotes about Dan or Dan and Gail or just roast them! The stories and roasting will be as people are finishing up dinner (around 6:30 or 6:45 pm). Then we will pick up the tables and dance.

Brad Caldwell has offered to be our MC for the evening. Along with Brad, our callers include Wayne Weston, Al Frazier, Dale Smith, Christina Wiggins, Glen Rogerson, and, of course, Dan Clairmont. We will be dancing Mainstream, Plus, and A2. There will be no round dancing at this event.

Your admission to the party is a potluck dish of some sort. Categories include, but are not limited, to appetizers, meats, casseroles, vegetables, fruit, bread, and dessert. So that everyone does not bring the same category of food, we are asking that you email Brooke Peters at [kbrookepeters@gmail.com](mailto:kbrookepeters@gmail.com) with the category of food you are bringing. This will also give us an approximate count on the number of people coming so we can set tables and chairs up accordingly. So far, only one person has responded and is bringing deviled eggs. The flyer for Dan’s party can be found on the website at [asrda.org/events](http://asrda.org/events). Let’s give Dan and Gail a send-off they won’t forget!

## Highlights of September 23, 2023 ASRDA Delegates Meeting

**2024 Presidents' Dance** – On October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2024, ASRDA will be hosting the Presidents' Weekend in La Grange, TX. The weekend consists of a caller clinic for callers, a dance Friday and Saturday evening, and Texas State Federation delegate meeting on Saturday morning. Everyone was reminded that the ASRDA delegates voted to host this meeting last year so all dancers in ASRDA should be involved, whether on the planning committee, helping set-up and clean up the evening of the dance, or attending the dance. Hosting a state meeting and dance gives an association the opportunity to raise money for the association and clubs. Please support the Presidents' Dance if asked. Tricia Morley and Dennis Artz are the Chairpersons of the committee.

**New ASRDA Logo** – Vickie Merchant presented the final 3 logos to vote on. She has made changes based on how the delegates said their dancers wanted to logo to look. We will also need to change the ASRDA banner, which was not considered when planning the logo. Brooke Peters and Vickie Merchant will make the changes on the banner. The new logo (right) will be used on all official materials.



**2025 Mid-Tex Committee Members Needed!** – The 2024 Mid-Tex committee would like to have a completed flyer for 2025 available at this year's 2024 Mid-Tex. A flyer can't be created until we have a theme and only the 2025 committee can pick the theme. Please volunteer to be on this committee. It'll be fun learning from experienced people, who have successfully put on this annual dance! We still have openings!



**Sun Dancers in Georgetown joining ASRDA** – This was tabled until January because the club is still working on some issues with the Board of Sun City.

**Demonstration Dance Requests** – Demo dance requests come in directly to clubs or through our website. The club president normally handles the request when the club is contacted directly. When ASRDA is contacted, Brooke Peters normally contacts the requesting organization and gathers information to include their location. Brooke then reaches out to the club president closest to that location to see if the club is interested. Sometimes two clubs are contacted. The delegates felt this was the best way to handle demo dances and unanimously decided to continue this way.

**Saving Clubs Money** – For the rest of this year, ASRDA will not be asking clubs to donate food, water, gift cards, or silent auction items to dances. ASRDA will cover these costs. This will be evaluated at the end of this fiscal year to see if ASRDA will continue to pay for these items.

Delegates were reminded that each club can be reimbursed \$200/year for any publicity efforts they do. Just send Shirley O’Neal the receipts and what you did for publicity, and she will reimburse you. Delegates were asked what other things ASRDA could do to help them financially.

It was suggested ASRDA help clubs with the cost of having lessons. Some clubs lose money when they have lessons because the cost of the caller and hall is not equal to what the students pay. ASRDA Board will discuss this at the next board meeting.

**ASRDA Guidelines for Reporting COVID** – Guidelines were presented to the delegates concerning anyone being infected with COVID. The guidelines were discussed and approved by a majority of the delegates. The guidelines can be found on the website under the “Resource” tab.

## Spooky Snacks



Create your Mummy Dogs with hot dogs or small sausages wrapped with strips of crescent rolls. Dot the eyes with mustard drops. Follow cooking instructions on the Crescent rolls.



### Witches Hat Cheese Ball

Cream Cheese    Herbs  
Bell Pepper.    Green  
Onions

Mix ingredients well. Form mixture into a hat. Cover with halved black olives. Serve with crackers and vegetable



Form this Witch Dip with blue corn tortilla chips for the hat. Guacamole creates the witches face; the hair consists of carrot sticks; black olives, celery, and red bell peppers are used for the features. Great for kids of all ages.

## 2026 National Square Dance Festival in Waco, Texas

In early September, many of the dancers involved in bringing the 2026 National Square Dance Convention to Waco met there to tour the facilities. ASRDA was well represented with Billy Grimsley, Ramona Padilla, Tricia Morley, Dennis Artz, Brooke Peters, Terry Martin, Derrell Wynne, Tina Hopkins, Bruce and Wanda Carter, and Bailey and Gaynelle Sutherland in attendance. The NEC committee members, Louis and Angie McClure and a Dimple and John Willifort were very impressed with the 27 dancers attended our 1st public meeting in Waco on September 7, 2023!!! They also commented on the number of registrations as being highly unusual for a city just having been accepted in later June!!



**Waco Convention Center**



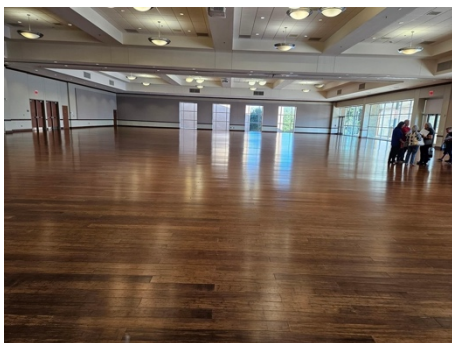
**Waco  
Suspension  
Bridge**



**Brazos River Sunset**



**Square Dance Hall**



**Round Dance Hall**



**Waco City Hall**

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## Tour of the 2026 National Square Dance site in Waco

The group toured Waco Convention Center. The facilities were very clean, modern, and large enough to accommodate the 3,000+ dancers the planning committee hopes to attract to the 2026 National Square Dance Convention (NSDC). The rooms used for the larger round dances have beautiful wooden floors and windows on two sides of the ballroom. The square dance halls are huge and have something in the walls that improves the sound over what is normally experienced in large cement floor dance arenas. The contra dance folks requested a long rectangular room for their workshops and dances. Several of those rooms are carpeted, but the planning committee proposes to cover the carpet with flooring for the dances.

The Education Chairman and Assistant Chairs, Brooke Peters and Everett and Tina Kelly, also toured the Waco Hilton, where the education classes will be held. The rooms are carpeted and have up-to-date audiovisual equipment. To get to the convention center from the host hotel, dancers simply walk across a breezeway to the convention center.

Gary and Claudia Lester, General Chairmen of the 2026 NSDC, have registered over 379 people for the convention that is still two and a half years away. This is an all-time-record for early registrations. Way to go Claudia and Gary! The committee is also selling "Diamond Jubilee" T-Shirts in red, black, or blue. Let one of the committee members in ASRDA know if you would like one. Otherwise, they will be on sale at the 2024 Mid-Tex Festival.

To continue boosting the 2026 National Conference, Claudia and Gary Lester are attending the Rendezvous Festival of Boulder, Colorado, a state festival, and are hoping to sign up more. Maybe they'll hit 400! On the last weekend in October, Ramona and Billy will attend the Houston Hoedown, while the Lesters will visit the Roundup in Fort Worth. On November 3-4, Billy and Ramona will visit the Oklahoma State Square and Round Dance Festival. We are so excited to push it to 450 by December!! What a great Christmas present!

**WACO will be an exciting convention! WACO Y'ALL!!**

**W-We  
A-Are  
C-Coming  
O-Over  
Y'ALL**



Gary & Claudia Lester, General Chairmen of the 2026 NSDC, with Wayne Weston

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**Pre – Registration**  
**75<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention®**  
**Waco, Texas**  
**June 24-27, 2026**



REGISTER ONLINE at [www.75nsdcinc.com](http://www.75nsdcinc.com)  
 This form expires on March 22, 2025

<b>Registration #</b> _____
<b>Ribbons</b> _____

**Zelle® your registration fee to [75nsdc@gmail.com](mailto:75nsdc@gmail.com)**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Primary Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Last Name (if different): \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Names & DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you want to opt out of email sharing. Email addresses shared only with the NEC for upcoming convention information

Pre-Registration Prices (US currency only) \$60.00 each x \_\_\_\_\_ until 3/22/2025 =\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Youth born after June 27, 2009 \$30.00 each x \_\_\_\_\_ until 3/22/2025 =\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sub Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Processing Fee \$3.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Received \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to 75NSDC) Zelle

Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement Mailing Address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Card Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**If Registering by Mail: 75NSDC 9597 Jones Rd Ste #122 Houston, TX 77065**  
**Or Email to: [register.75nsdc@gmail.com](mailto:register.75nsdc@gmail.com)**

**PLEASE HELP US PLAN! Please CIRCLE all that apply**

Dancers: SSD Only, Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging, Handicapable, SOLO

Leaders: Squares, Contra, Lines, Rounds, Clogging. Education Presenter Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrive Early or Stay Late # Days \_\_\_\_\_? Stay at Convention Hotels, RV Camping or

Other Accommodations? \_\_\_\_\_

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you need Block Rooms \_\_\_\_\_, Meeting Rooms \_\_\_\_\_ or Storage Space: \_\_\_\_\_

**Room Blocks Expire September 15, 2025**

\$10.00 cancellation fee per registration. No refunds after April 30, 2026. **This form and registration rate is void after March 22, 2025.** Registration Long Forms will be mailed in January, 2025 for selection of hotel or RV park and additional items. Early registration gives you free admittance to the Pre-Convention Kick Off Dance on March 22, 2025.

**"Convention Badges Required for Entrance to all Convention Activities; Dressy Casual Attire allowed until 6:00 pm. Proper Dance Attire is Requested After 6:00 pm for all Dancers."**

(Internal Use Only) Accepted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt Sent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Sent: \_\_\_\_\_

**WE'RE GOING TO TEXAS Y'ALL!**

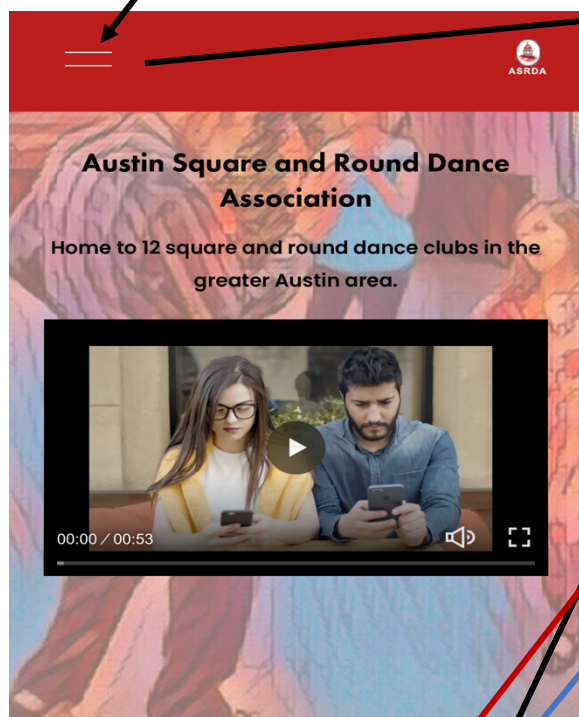
**Hotel reservations may be made AFTER March 22, 2025!**  
**Room blocks expire after September 15, 2025**

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## Website Works

### Navigating the ASRDA website (asrda.org) with your cell

Trying to locate information on your cell can be frustrating. This tip might help. Notice the 2 horizontal lines on the top left corner of the red strip or header.



If you touch those lines, you will see a list of the pages on the website shown below.



With classes beginning, please direct students to **"New Dancer Info"** or **"Resources"** so that they learn more about this great leisure activity.

Looking for upcoming dances, check out **"Events"** and select **"Upcoming Events."**

If you want to know, which club is dancing on which night? Check out **"Clubs."** There is a list of **"Club Dances by Day."**

If you want to contact an elected or appointed officer, Mid-Tex Committee Member, or the Web committee, click on **"Who's Who."** All the information is at your fingertips!

From the list, touch the topic you would like to learn about. Remember **"HELP!"** will also assist you in navigating the website.

To **SUBSCRIBE** to the **NEWSLETTER**, click on **NEWSLETTER**, scroll down to the bottom and fill in the form. This will be sent to Mike who will put you on the list!

Do you have other questions about using the website? Please let us know so they can be addressed. If you have a question, others will too!

## Jazz Shoe versus Jazz Sneaker

Last month, our shoe vendor for 2024 Mid-Tex, Karizmah, was introduced. Karizmah's owner, Lee Ann Braddford will be happy to bring a particular shoe that you are interested in for you to try. Or if you are interested in trying several shoes of the same type, but different brands, she can bring a few along. You just need to let her know. Over the next few months, we will discuss several types of shoes for dancing. This month we will discuss *jazz shoes* and *jazz sneakers*.

**Jazz shoes** are a specific type of dance shoes that can be worn for a variety of dance styles such as jazz, musical theater, hip-hop, aerobics and salsa. There are many variations of jazz shoes with most variations being flexible, hugging the foot tightly and have rubber on the base for traction. The traction protects the feet from slipping when performing quick weight changes and shifts. Many ballroom dancers use these as practice shoes. They come in solid sole and split sole. These shoes are very light weight.

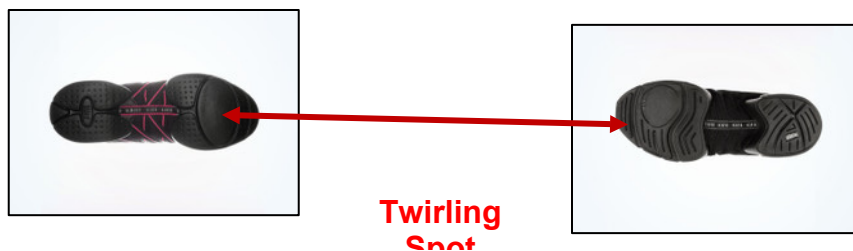


Split Sole

Both types of jazz sneakers have a split sole and a “twirling spot.”

The **jazz sneaker** is a cross between a jazz shoe and a sneaker or running shoe. They are much sturdier than jazz shoes and therefore heavier, but not as heavy as a running shoe. They have a great arch support and padding in the forefoot and heel which is very useful when dancing on concrete or non-sprung wood floors. There is more ankle control in the jazz sneaker than in the jazz shoe. Most dance sneakers have a split sole. This allows for greater flexibility of the foot as compared to a solid sole. Split soles allow hip-hop dancers to stand on their toes. A good jazz sneaker has an area on the sole of the forefoot that allows for spinning. The jazz sneaker isn't a sexy or dressy shoe, but the comfort makes up for it – and it does look dressier than a running shoe.

In this author's opinion, the jazz sneaker is the most comfortable and versatile dance shoe you can wear for square dancing. They allow your feet to move easily without sticking to the floor and they make your twirls effortless. You also don't slip like you can in leather bottom shoes.



Twirling Spot

There are many manufacturers of the dance sneaker, *Bloch, Capezio, Port Dance, Alegria, Move Dance, and Fuego*. Go to their websites and check them out. Also check out Karizmah's website at <https://karizmahdanceshoes.com/> and see which brands of dance shoes Lee Ann carries. She may be able to order a pair she doesn't normally carry if you think you would like it.

Many dancers in ASRDA wear shoes that Karizmah carries so, if you see someone wearing a pair you like, ask them if they find the shoes comfortable, worth the money and if they hold up well. Then you can contact Leann at [sales@karizmahdanceshoes.com](mailto:sales@karizmahdanceshoes.com) and ask her to bring shoes of that style and in your size to Mid-Tex.



### **What Square Dancing Has Meant to Me!**

Prior to the 2023 State Festival, TSFSRD asked dancers from all over Texas to write about what square dancing has meant to them in their lives. The responses were submitted to the Federation with the understanding the documents would be on a display table at the festival. The display acknowledged the significance of the letters.

There were nine responses and SIX of them were from dancers in ASRDA! Many people stopped to read the documents and repeatedly commented "I never knew that about \_\_\_\_\_."

All the ASRDA responses will be shared in the next few months. Here is one of the responses:

I immigrated to the United States in 1998 and my family took a trip through the small town of Lolo, Montana. While there, I met Ken Bower, and he invited our family to come and see the square dance at the RV park. We went as we had never seen square dancing before. It was lively and everyone showed how much fun they were having with their smiles and inviting us to join in!

After our trip, I decided to buy an RV park in Schertz, Tx called Stone Creek RV Park. The RV Park already had square dancing there led by Wayne Weston for special dances for the Camping Squares. In October 1998, I took lessons from the Texas Bluebonnets, and it was the first class to graduate from the Stone Creek RV Park!

Another group started dancing there called the Flying Squares so between these three groups there was dancing 5 nights a week. It was unbelievably fun!! Because the Flying Squares were having their first graduation at the RV park, I promised them that by their graduation date I would have a brand-new floating wooden floor installed for that event. It was quite an undertaking, but they had their floor and we continued to dance for many, many years.

One evening, I took the courage to ask Wayne if it was customary for a girl to ask a boy to dance, not knowing all the social customs yet. Wayne kindly said yes that it was permitted so I asked him to dance the next song. It was a sweet song called PUT YOUR LITTLE FOOT.

We have been together ever since and have enjoyed love, life, our families, and dancing! Wayne calls till this day almost 6 days a week. Square dancing is a wonderful place to dance, meet great folks, and enjoy your spouse or partner! Our advice is to keep on dancing for as long as God gives you the time to do it.



Sincerely,  
Luzia and Wayne Weston



### A Square Dance Poem *Anonymous*

Gather up four couples...Face them in a square.  
Then listen to the caller...who will move you from here to there.  
Four hands around and *Grand Square*...*Make a Right-hand Star*.  
*Yellow Rock, Promenade*... What's an *Allemande* *Thar??*  
What's it mean to *Wheel and Deal?* ...or do a *Do-Si-Do*.  
*Bend The Line* or *Load The Boat*. Which way am I to go?  
*Flutter Wheel, Ferris Wheel, Do the Teacup Chain*.  
*Spin-the-Top, Box the Gnat*. These all sound insane!  
I'm just an humble beginner...these terms are all brand new.  
Will I ever get to know how to do a *Spin Chain Through??*

They say it will get easier...On that I must depend.  
Meanwhile, I'll keep trying ...and enjoy my New-Found Friends.



## 2023 Teen Scholarship Dance



Al, Wayne, Dan, Brad, Gary  
**Fantastic ASRDA Callers**



Pat & Ron Plouch;  
Tricia Morley & Dennis Artz  
**Amazing ASRDA Cuers**



**Taylor Promenders**

We had a little over seven squares at this year's Teen Scholarship dance. The dance was incredibly well supported by our local callers and cuers. Gary Bible and Brad Caldwell called one song together with some nice harmony. Dan Clairmont, Wayne Weston, and Al Frazier provided very interesting, but fun choreography. The cuers, Tricia Morley and Ron Plouch cued some beautiful dances with wonderful music. All were extremely upbeat and really made sure the dancers had a wonderful time. They even danced with us when they weren't calling! A huge "Thank you" goes out to each and every one of the callers and cuers for being so generous with their time and talent.

We were very happy to have our young dancers from Taylor Promenaders come to the dance. This was the first time they attended an ASRDA dance. These young men said they really liked square dancing. It makes you think. Many of the adult dancers were surprised what good dancers these kids are.

Attendees supported our fundraising for the Teen Scholarship through donations at the door, buying tickets for Split-the-Pot, and giving money for the used square dance clothes. Chuck Sherman was the winner of Split-The Pot. He won \$69.50 and donated all but 50 cents back to the Teen Scholarship Fun. So Split-The-Pot raised \$138.50. The Klothes Kloset brought in \$223.00, and we received \$1280.00 at the door. **Our total income for the dance was \$1641.50.** A check for this amount will be presented to the Teen Scholarship Committee of Texas Federation of Square and Round Dancers at the upcoming state delegate meeting on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio. Thank you to everyone who supported this dance and the Teen Scholarship program.



Moving Square Dancing into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



## Mainstream Square Dance Students, Get Free Review Sessions

Dan McDonald, a Wheel-N-Deals dancer, is offering free review sessions to new Mainstream Square Dance Students at the Longhorn RV Resort at 12921 Camino Real, Neiderwald, TX 78640 every Sunday evening at 7:00 pm.

Dan will review only the calls the students have been taught in class. This is an excellent opportunity for students, who may have missed a week of classes to catch up or for new dancers to practice moves they are still unsure about. Once the moves have been reviewed, Dan will call dances that are within the student's ability.

Dan is an excellent dancer and is now learning to be a caller. Calling for new dancers gives him a chance to practice his calling as well as to give students the opportunity to dance to a caller other than the instructor at their home club.

Experienced dancers are welcome too. It is fun to see what is involved when a dancer is learning to call. Dan also provides color-coded aprons for dancers to wear to keep track of each couple. In preparation for these practice sessions, he has come up with some unique choreography that works well as being fun to dance to.

New dancers will also get to meet other new dancers from other clubs.

If you would like to take advantage of this square dance review and helping Dan with his calling practice, contact Dan McDonald at 512-694-0654 or send a text to Bob Anderson at 512-426-8855. Be sure you contact either Dan or Bob to make sure that there will be dancing on the Sunday you want to go. Once they have your phone number, you will get a weekly text from Bob reminding you of the upcoming review or tell you if the review has been cancelled.

We hope to see you soon in a practice square!

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## ASRDA Club News

### Canyon Lake Square Dancers

By Wayne Weston



Canyon Lake Square Dancers are still having fun every Wednesday at Goofy's. We have completed our Plus workshop for the experienced Plus dancers. They were challenged but had fun. Our Mainstream dance is from 6:30 to 8:30 with rounds and lines between tips. We also have a "Hot Hash" tip every evening for those that want something a little faster, perhaps more challenging, and with less time to think.

The first Wednesday of each month is our dress-up night. Everyone is encouraged to wear their Square Dance Clothes or our "Canyon Lake Square Dancer's Excuse" shirts, and most do.

Bob McVey will be filling for Wayne on October 11<sup>th</sup> since Wayne and Luzia will be out of the area. Come on out and support him and have a good time.

Our Round Dancers are progressing well and should be very near the completion of Phase II by the end of September. We are not rushing through the figures, so everyone feels comfortable with each one. Waltz and Two-Step are both rhythms the dancers are working on. They are doing many different dances already and will be doing more as we go along. You can see them Round Dancing at many Square Dances, and they are doing great. In November, we will begin looking at Rumba figures and putting them into dances, as well. Our Round Dance classes are also at Goofy's on Mondays from 2:45 to 4:45.

We will be celebrating Halloween at the Weston's Barn on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 5:00-7:00pm and dance to some Halloween Music! Costumes are Optional. Bring a Spooky Dessert to Weston's Barn, 1450 Rotherman Road, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133. See the Flyer at [ASRDA.org/events](http://ASRDA.org/events) for more information.

Check us out on our Facebook group at "Canyon Lake Dancers". We always have a great time Square, Round, and Line Dancing.

Come out and visit. We're happy to sign your Friendship Badge Chart.



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## Carousel Club #340

By Bob and Kay



Finally, we are getting cooler weather and RAIN. What a blessing. Those "Rain Dances" that some of you did-really helped.

Now for the news from Carousel Club #340

Things have been slow for the past month due to the heat we have had. It has been just too hard for the air conditioners to cool things down in our dance room.

Because of the heat, we have had to move our classes to the mornings. In August we were in Eureka Springs AR for a great Round Dance Vacation week. We had a nice contention of round dancers representing the state of Texas. We joined Pamela and Jeff Johnson in presenting 8 new dances, in the levels of 3 to 6, which were enjoyed by those attending.

Once home it was back reviewing these dances and more. We will also be the featured Round Dance teachers at the annual "Houston Hoedown" square and round dance weekend on October 27-28 in Conroe Texas. We will be joining Adam Christman, from the Spokane WA area. If you have never danced to him, you have missed a great time square dancing. Hope to see many of you there!

Giving you a "Heads Up." We will NOT be dancing for the rest of September and most of October. As you are reading this newsletter, we are in Europe with the tour group we are taking over there. We will be home in time to prepare for the "Houston Hoedown" the end of October, also hopefully in time for the next Newsletter.

Once home we will start reviewing dances for the "Harvest Holiday Round Dance Festival" which will be held in Dallas on Thanksgiving weekend. Pamela and Jeff Johnson will be the featured Round Dance guest instructors, so if you missed them in Eureka Springs, you will have another opportunity to enjoy their great teaching.

With this being a slow month, there really is not too much more to report. We will be signing off. Take care and hope to see ya' at the Houston Hoedown. The festival is going to be a great Festival.





*CenTex Plus Recent Graduates with Chet Miles*

September 18 was the last class for CenTex Plus students. These Plus Dancers are ready to graduate. As all new graduates, they will need more floor time.

The air conditioner has been sending out really cold air at the VFW Hall at 1701 Hunter Road in San Marcos. Bring a jacket in case you get cold, but Chet will keep you warmed up with his PLUS calling.

The Dance will now begin at 7:00 and continue until 9:00 pm every Monday. Bring a snack and drink if you need one.

Come and dance with this great group of dancers. No fussing or Gripping; Just FUN and LAUGHTER!



Pat & Ron Plouch



We are meeting from 2-5 pm on Sundays at Hermann Sons in San Antonio. Students are learning Upper-Level figures. We look forward to teaching two-step and waltz lessons.

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Terry Martin at KBey FM

### Country Cuzzins'

Marble Falls, TX

By Terry Martin

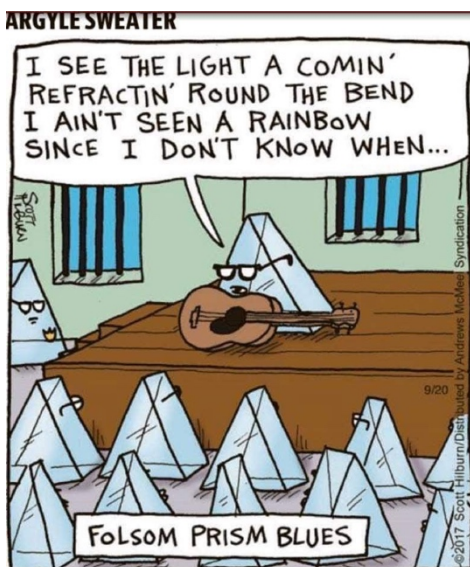
We began our free lessons on September 7<sup>th</sup> and eight people showed up. About half of the students had heard about the classes from the advertisement on the radio starring Terry Martin! Others had seen our advertisement on the web page and the cards that had been placed throughout the community. Eight students began the first week.

After our lessons the students were eager to come back next week. Those attended as well as 3 more came for the second lesson. Most have already paid for the set of lessons. Thanks to all the club members who "Angeled" our new dancers. We are so excited to welcome new people to our club and the square dance family.

We also celebrated Gaynell and Bailey Sutherland's 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary! Congratulations to them!



Gaynell & Bailey Sutherland



## La Grange Road Runners La Grange Texas



### La Grange Roadrunner's Parade Float Wins

A big shout out to the La Grange Roadrunners for their participation in the Fayette County Parade over Labor Day weekend! They made an adorably creative roadrunner float with Wile E. Coyote smashed on the front of the pick-up truck and the Roadrunner painted on the back of the float. There were also larger than life roadrunners on the sides of the float.

Just as impressive was everyone on the float's positive attitude while sitting in the sun in almost 100-degree weather waiting for the parade to start. Bobbie on the bicycle was particularly cute as she passed out lesson flyers to parade attendees. The Roadrunners won 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the Non-Commercial float in the parade.

Fourteen new students began Mainstream Lessons. We are excited to welcome them to our family of square dancers.





## Lone Star Lambdas Austin, TX

We are continuing to dance on Mondays from 6:30-8:30. When Dan Clairmont retires, we will be looking for a new caller.



## Shirts N Skirts Georgetown By Linda Farley Davis

Our contribution to "Back to School Month" was a collection of school supplies for Forbes Middle School in Georgetown. The school was contacted previously and gave up three specific items that were needed.

Our members and visitors responded in a BIG way. Helen Bohmfalk made the evening extra special with her creative signs and then she delivered the collection of supplies to the school. She also included a flyer for our new dance lessons starting up. She tells me the school was most appreciative.



Our snacks that week were favorite after school snacks, and we had quite a variety. One of our members even brought along her letter jacket from high school and wore it just long enough for a photo op.

We have now completed our first two free dance lessons. We had 15 the first lesson. The second lesson 14 returned and an additional 7 came.

We would love to have you visit our club to help with lessons from 6:45 to 7:30 and attend the regular dance afterward until 9:30. The location is Christ Lutheran Church at 510 Luther Dr. in Georgetown.



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## Step 'N Style

By Tricia Morley



New classes started in La Grange this week.

Twelve students attended the Fun Night. Nine came back for their first week of classes and they did great. Bastrop h their first night of classes and tonight will be their 2nd week of Mainstream the Program.

We did manage to get the Meg Weekley Center for an hour extra each week. So, we have changed our schedule. We decided to have two classes every Monday: The first class is Beginner Waltz Ph II/III from 1:00 - 3:30 and the 2nd class is from 3:30 - 5:00 pm. Advanced Bolero Ph III - VI. Most students stayed for both classes. They are so enthusiastic, and the energy level is high.

In La Grange, we had one new couple join us in Rounds, who are great, and we have high hopes for the future for them. A second couple will join us soon. They are moving to Schulenburg from Houston and already know how to round and square dance.

Next Sunday, Sundancers will have their open house for new round dancers, and we are hoping for some new members.

Happy Dancing!

Tricia & Dennis

- 
- Mon Richard & Meg Weekley Community Center  
8440 Greenhouse Road, Cypress 77433  
2:00 - 3:30 pm Beginner Waltz, Ph II-III, workshop & figs.  
3:30 - 5:00 pm Advanced Bolero, Ph III-VI, workshop & figs
- Tues Randolph Center, 653 E. Pearl St., La Grange  
5:30 - 7:00 pm Rumba/Cha Ph III-IV, workshop & figs.  
7:00 - 8:30 pm SSD Square Dance Lessons
- Wed Bastrop Comm. Center 1209 Linden St. Bastrop  
6:00 - 7:30 pm Mainstream Square Dance Lessons  
7:30 - 9:00 pm Rounds All Rhythms,  
Open Dancing Ph II - VI, practice time
- Sun Sun City, Atrium, 1 Texas Dr, Georgetown  
1: 00 - 2:30 pm Rumba/Cha, Ph III-IV, workshop & figs.  
2:30 - 4:00 pm Beginner Bolero classes, Ph III-IV, workshop & figs.  
4:00 - 5:30 pm Advanced All Rhythms, workshop & figs.



The next Blast will be Oct 31st with a Halloween Theme, 6-9pm –  
Learn the very popular dance "A Thousand Years", Rumba Ph IV+1, @ Randolph  
Center, 653 E. Pearl St., La Grange.  
Call Tricia 713-598-8875 or email: morleyprop@gmail.com

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## Taylor Promenaders

By Connie Frazier



Our Families attended the Teen Scholarship dance and they said they had a good time. It was so good to see them out dancing with all the other dancers.

The Promenaders will begin lessons on October 5th 2023 at the Tripp Center. If you know anyone living near Taylor, please send them out. We have a great dance hall.

Al and Connie will be going to Dime Box Texas for a Festival on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The LaGrange Roadrunners are dancing in an exhibition there in the morning.

We are having a Mainstream Halloween dance on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Dan Clairmont is the guest caller along with Al. Dress up if you wish. We would love to have you come join us. The kids would love it too.

On December 14, 2023, the Promenaders are again having a benefit dance for Shepard's Heart in Taylor, Texas. This will be the second year for this. The first year was a great year in donations. Money or food may be donated. Please think about attending this dance. There will be no charge if you bring a food item or donate.

We all are thankful for the rain that was received but pray for more.

See our flyers at [asrda.org/events](https://asrda.org/events)





## Waterloo Square Dance Club

Waterloos have two dances in October that we hope you will attend. On October 17, Don Nordbye is calling from 6:45-8:45pm at the South Austin Senior Center.

We also have Bob Asp calling our Halloween Dance on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. We'll be serving hot dogs and Frito pies. We hope you will join us!







As summer was “coming to a close”, we ended it with a “BANG!”. Nine WND members traveled to Waterloos on Aug 29<sup>th</sup> since we are dark on the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. We plan to visit again on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Chet Miles hosted a successful Open House with 17 potential students on September 5<sup>th</sup> - also our Birthday night. Nine were from Meet-Up. Some saw flyers, some saw information on-line and some were brought by friends. Everyone said they had a good time, and many said they were coming for lessons. We now have 11 paying students. Our club members provided lots of goodies for everyone to enjoy.

To bring in new students we advertised on our website, posted flyers, created a Meetup listing, wrote a newspaper article, and otherwise spread the word of our Open House. Meetup brought in the most people for this event.

Dan McDonald and Billy Grimsley continue to call the last tips at the end of each evening and are really impressing us with their skills and music. Dan would like to have 8 people help him on Sundays to continue to practice his calling. If anyone would like to practice Mainstream calls on a Sunday, please contact Dan McDonald at 512-694-0654 or send a text to Bob Anderson at 512-426-8855. Be sure you contact either Dan or Bob to make sure that there will be dancing on the Sunday you want to go.



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## Newsletter News



Vickie & Gary Merchant

- What topics would **you** like included in this monthly newsletter that would make it more interesting to YOU?
  - What questions/suggestions do you have for any of the ASRDA officers? These can be anonymous.
  - Do you have a favorite recipe to share?
  - What do you like about the newsletter? What don't you like?
- Please send me your suggestions, articles, photos, recipes, etc. as attachments to [vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com](mailto:vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com)  
Please send your flyers for dances as soon as they are complete so they can be added to the ASRDA.org website under "Upcoming Events."

### ASRDA Website/Facebook Statistics

From Aug. 31 through Sept. 29, 2023, [www.asrda.org](http://www.asrda.org) has had 513 people look at the Home Page of our new website; 217 have viewed Upcoming Events. 147 readers have checked out the Newsletters, while 79 people have looked at Classes. 63 folks have examined New Dancer Info, while 49 examined the Resources. Wow! Exciting news!

**Facebook Followers** have increased to 591 with 17 new followers. In the past month, our



Posts reached over 4,000 people and had 2,424 reactions. Our Facebook presence is increasing. 520 have checked out our photos. Hopefully, new students will *Like* and *Share* our Facebook page with their friends. Please tell them about it.

You can **subscribe** to *Round the Capitol Square*! Go to <http://www.asrda.org/newsletters> and scroll to the bottom of the page. Fill out the form and you will be subscribed or Download RCS for no charge.

*Round The Capitol Square* is the official publication of the Austin Square & Round Dance Association. There are eleven issues per year (no July issue).

All articles and flyers (8.5 x 11) must be received by the 15th of each month preceding the month of publication (i.e., 15th of August for publication in the September issue). When sending your articles in, please **attach** the document (.docx) to an email. Any photos should be sent as a **jpg file and as attachments** to [vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com](mailto:vmmerchant.asrda@gmail.com)

The Editor reserves the right to condense, rewrite, omit, or rearrange any items submitted.

Ad Cost: \$25 for non-ASRDA clubs per issue.